

THE
National Council of Women
OF CANADA :

WHAT IT MEANS AND WHAT IT DOES.

BY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN,
(First President of the Council, 1893-1899.)

Reprinted from the Canadian Women's Hand-book.

The National Council of Women of Canada: What It Means and What It Does.

By THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.
(First President of the Council, 1898-99.)

A stranger visiting Canada and making enquiries as to the position, work and opportunities of women in this country generally, and in the various Provinces, would often find his questions answered by his being referred to the National Council of Women; and, having had no previous knowledge of such an organization elsewhere, he might find it difficult for a time to understand its functions and its exact *raison d'être*. In one place he will find the Council organizing agencies for the relief of distress and for co-operation on a common basis; in another he will hear of its erecting a Hospital or starting a Free Library; here it will be introducing a deputation to a Provincial Government on the furthering of domestic science and technical education in the public schools; there it will be urging the amendment of the Shops or Factory Acts on behalf of the women workers in shops or factories; he hears of it everywhere in connection with kindly offices on behalf of newly-arrived immigrants, with the patriotic work of the Red Cross Society, with the Victorian Order of Nurses, and with the collection of facts about women's life in Canada intended for publication in the Government Handbook for the Paris Exhibition. The multiplicity of its activities confuse him, and he cannot label it to his own satisfaction.

"Is this Council a *political* organization?" our traveller might ask.

"No; women of all parties belong to its ranks."

"Is it attached to any Church?"

"No; members of all the Protestant Churches and of the Roman Catholic Church work together in the Council, as do also the adherents of the Jewish faith."

"What, then, are its distinctive aims and how can any *esprit de corps* exist in a body formed of so many various and naturally antagonistic elements?"

And, for an answer, a copy of our Constitution is handed to the enquirer, and he is invited further to attend one of our National Council meetings and to hear the report of common work actually accomplished by the combined efforts of the antagonistic elements of which he speaks.

Here is our Confession of Faith :—

“We, women of Canada, sincerely believing that the best good of our homes and nation will be advanced by our own greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organized movement of women will best conserve the highest good of the Family and the State, do hereby band ourselves together to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law.”

And here is the pivot on which our Constitution rests, and on which all the work of our Council turns :

“This Council is organized in the interests of no one propaganda, and has no power over the organizations which constitute it beyond that of suggestion and sympathy ; therefore, no society voting to enter this Council shall render itself liable to be interfered with in respect to its complete organic unity, independence, or methods of work, or be committed to any principle or methods of any other Society, or to any act or utterance of the Council itself, beyond compliance with the terms of this Constitution.”

Those who formed the Council in 1893 were most solicitous not to frame rules which would savor of red tape, but simply to form an organization which would in every centre of population bring together in common thought and work those who are endeavouring to labour for the welfare of the community, irrespective of creed, political party, class or race.

On these lines twenty-one Local Councils of Women now exist in Canada, from Prince Edward Island in the extreme East to Vancouver Island in the extreme West, and the list of Local Societies and Institutions federated with these Councils, formed for every conceivable object, fill the pages of a respectable sized pamphlet.

These twenty-one Local Councils, together with seven Associations organized on a National basis, are linked together in a National Council, which gathers representatives from all its federated organizations once a year in different cities of the Dominion, to receive reports, to confer on subjects suggested by its Executive or by the Local Councils, to decide on any combined national action that may be voted desirable, and to recommend lines of work or enquiry by the Local Councils in their several provinces.

“But has this National Council or its Local Councils and Societies accomplished anything beyond meeting to talk ?” presses our enquirer.

Our only difficulty in replying to this query is the length of the list we ought to give if we would do our Council justice.

We will, however, select a few instances of work undertaken or carried through by means of the Council, either in its National, Provincial, or Local capacity.

1. It obtained the introduction of manual training and the instruction in domestic science in the public schools of Ontario, and the training of teachers so that they may be able to give instruction in these arts. It has also given an emphasis to the same movement in other provinces.

2. It has obtained the appointment of Women Factory Inspectors for factories and workshops where women are employed, in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

3. It has obtained the extension of the provisions of the Factory Act to the Shops Act in Ontario as regards the supervision of women workers, and is taking steps to promote the same extension in the Province of Quebec.

4. It has obtained the appointment of women on the Boards of School Trustees in New Brunswick, and the amendment of the School Act so that they may be elected in British Columbia. It has also compiled a report on the regulations and methods of electing members of School Boards in all the seven Provinces in which much variety exists.

5. It has brought about very desirable changes in the arrangements for women prisoners in various places, notably in the City of Quebec, where matrons are now in charge of the women, and young girls are now sent to a separate institution.

6. It has organized in various centres Boards of Associated Charities, or other systems of co-operation in the relief of distress, and is still working in this direction wherever it has opportunity so to do, and has circulated a valuable paper on the problem of the unemployed.

7. It has established Hospitals in some of its smaller centres.

8. It originated the idea of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and has taken a leading part in its establishment in different centres.

9. It has organized Cooking Schools, Cooking Classes, and at Quebec is helping in the formation of a Training School for Domestic Servants.

10. It has spread sanitary knowledge, especially by means of Health Talks for Mothers given by physicians in Montreal. This has been specially successfully both amongst the French and English mothers.

11. It has held an enquiry all over the country into the circulation of impure literature, and has been able to do something to lessen it already, as well as to warn parents and teachers as to the

very great danger that exists in this direction. It hopes to be able to do more by legislation and by the circulation of healthy and interesting literature.

12. It inaugurated the National Home Reading Union to promote habits of good and systematic reading, and this Union is making most satisfactory progress.

13. It instituted enquiries into the conditions surrounding working women in several centres, and urges on its members various methods whereby they may work for their amelioration.

14. It conducted an enquiry in all the Provinces into the Laws for the Protection of Women and Children, and laid certain recommendations before the Minister of Justice, which he adopted when bringing in amendments to the Criminal Law in 1899. These amendments did not become law because of lack of time for their final consideration, but the Council has again pledged itself earnestly to support their adoption.

15. It is earnestly concerning itself in the care and treatment of the aged poor, and also of the feeble-minded.

16. It calls on all its members to unite in efforts for the protection of animal and bird life from useless destruction in the interests of fashion.

17. Through one of its affiliated societies it is endeavoring to plan for the better care and wiser distribution of women immigrants than has hitherto been possible, and in the case of the Doukhoborts it has provided the women with materials for carrying on home industries and other much-needed assistance for their first winter in Canada.

18. It is pledged to co-operate with medical authorities in urging immediate measures to be taken to check the ever increasing ravages of consumptive diseases in this country; to spread knowledge on the subject, and bring responsibility home to individuals.

19. It desires to promote the systematic instruction in Art Design adaptable to Industries and Manufactures, as opening up a field full of opportunities for women.

20. On several occasions the pressing needs of the women and children of a city partially destroyed by sudden fire, have been relieved at a few hours' notice, by the combined action of a Council of women in a neighbouring city, whose organization gave it the opportunity to render prompt and efficient help.

21. At the desire of the Red Cross Society, it is now organizing Branches of this Society all over Canada, for the relief of sufferers in the War.

22. At the request of the Dominion Government it has compiled this Hand-book of information on matters relating to Canadian women and their work, for publication and distribution at the Paris Exhibition, at the expense of the Government.

I might prolong this list indefinitely were I to record the great variety of local efforts which have been made by our Local Councils for the promotion of some reform or the furtherance of some scheme approved by all the affiliated Societies. But I forbear. I would only desire here to point out how very much easier it has been found in many cases to carry some reform into effect when it has the joint support of workers from all churches and all sections, instead of being, perhaps, considered the hobby of one Society.

And now having proved that the National Council does something more tangible than mere talking, let me claim for that mere talking a value of its own. During the six and a half years since the Council was formed, the Conferences which it has organized between workers from all parts of the country have been full of helpfulness and suggestiveness. I will quote a few of the subjects of such Conferences :—

“What Women may do in Agriculture”; “The duty of Canadian Women in regard to the Voting Privileges already accorded to them”; “The Problem of Domestic Service”; “The Development of National Literature in Canada”; “Mothers’ Unions”; “The place of an Educated Mother in the Training of her Children”; “Infant Mortality and its Causes”; “The Care of Female Prisoners”; “How to Read and What to Read”; “The Problem of the Unemployed”; “The Importance of the National Council in Fostering and Developing the Patriotism of Canadian Women”; “Food and Recreation in Relation to Intemperance”; “The Development of Art Feeling in Canada”; “Humour as it affects Character”.

Conferences, similar in character, have been held by most of our Local Councils, and we have reason to believe that the exchange of information and opinion on these and many other subjects of practical interest has done much to bring our members together and to make them understand one another’s point of view, besides increasing their knowledge and usefulness. It seems to be almost too good to be true that the Council should be able to report such results from its six years’ work, for most of us remember the many doubts expressed at the outset as to the vitality of the movement. Those doubts are now laid to rest and we thank God and take courage. One great reason for the progress of the Council lies

in the character, ability, earnestness and wise judgment of the women who have acted as officers of both the National and Local Councils. In my capacity of First President of the Council, I can speak from personal knowledge and experience, and I can truly say that never was there a movement more blessed in its pioneers, nor a President more loyally and efficiently supported by her colleagues. The standing of the Members of our Council was well brought out at the International Congress of Women in London in 1899, where some forty of them were present, and where they won great credit for the part they took in the discussions of the Congress and in business deliberations with members of Sister National Councils. And so we believe that the National Council of Women of Canada has amply proved its right to exist, and we trust that it will never give its good friends, who have stood by it reason to regret their support.

We remember gratefully the valuable support given to us by many of our leading public men, and the words of encouragement they have spoken to us and about us from time to time ; and I venture to close this little description of what the Council means by quoting from some of them, choosing for this purpose representatives of different churches and different political parties.

One of our earliest and staunchest friends was the late regretted Premier of Canada, the Right Hon. Sir John Thompson, who heartily endorsed the formation of the Council. At our first Annual Meeting, he said :—

“ Let me say that no class in this country could appreciate
 “ more than public men the benefits that are aimed at in this move-
 “ ment. One other great and inevitable result will be that besides
 “ helping forward all the charitable institutions in the country, it
 “ will bind together in sympathy and closer citizenship those who
 “ are interested in charitable work, it will take them out of the
 “ influence of the thousand and one influences which divide our
 “ people. Any movement which tends to bring together the
 “ people of the various provinces, of different opinions, politics and
 “ beliefs, will be patriotic in its aim and in its work, and divinely
 “ blessed in its results.

“ I tender all the congratulations which it is in my power to
 “ express, in regard to the patriotic tendency of the deliberations
 “ of the Conference, which declare for the consolidation of the
 “ Canadian people, and for teaching the young the value of their
 “ country, and training them to love and serve their country as they
 “ ought to do. For these reasons I have the greatest pleasure in
 “ seconding this resolution ; and on behalf of the public men and

"private citizens of this country, I extend to you, the women of this Council, our heartiest congratulations and our determination to co-operate in this good and noble work."

At a subsequent Annual Meeting at Montreal, the present Premier of the Dominion, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., gave a similar testimony :—

"Le Conseil des Femmes du Canada a fait beaucoup pour opérer la rapprochement des éléments épars qui forment la famille canadienne. Je dis la famille canadienne, et je le dis à dessein. Car sans doute, nous, de race française, n'avons pas l'intention de rien oublier. Nous voulons conserver nos vieilles coutûmes et surtout cette belle langue que nous tenons de la France, cette langue de Racine, de Molière, de Victor Hugo. Mais tout en voulant rester nous-mêmes, et réclamer en même temps notre part de droits, de justice, de liberté et de soleil, et ce que nous demandons pour nous, de tout cœur nous voulons l'accorder aux autres. Nous voulons que nous tous apprenions à nous connaître, à nous respecter dans notre diversité et dans notre union. Mesdames, s'il est un pouvoir qui puisse faire s'opérer, je ne dirai pas ce changement, mais qui puisse faire arriver cette bonne œuvre à bonne fin, c'est certainement le Conseil des Femmes."

I also take an extract of another speech of Sir Wilfrid's at a subsequent gathering :—

"I am here to testify that this Council of Women, which is only two years old, has already achieved a very great deal. My friend, Mr. Foster, struck the right key when he remarked that if the National Council had done nothing else than to bring together women from the East and from the West, they had done a great deal towards unification of this country with its diverse races and creeds. Her Excellency said that one aim, one purpose, one object which the National Council had was to smooth away ancient feuds and rancours. What nobler work can there be than that? What we want in this country above all things, if we are to become a nation, as with God's help we shall, is to have peace, harmony and union amongst all the heterogeneous elements which the Providence of God has brought into this fair country. For this I look above all things to the hand of woman, and you will agree with me that the hand of woman was made for union."

Having quoted from two Premiers, I will further add some extracts from a few more speeches.

The Hon. G. E. Foster, Minister of Finance in the Conservative Government :—

“If there were no other result than the gathering together of thoughtful and active women from one end of this country to the other, that would be a sufficient excuse for the existence and for the continued work of this organization. I hold that there is no influence more effective in the direction of binding the country together, and tending more to elevation and growth, than the simple, common knowledge that one person obtains of another in the course of joint work and joint enterprise. The very fact that a lady living in Victoria has met a lady who lives in Halifax, and has exchanged views with her about some public or social question in which the sympathies of both of them are interested, constitutes a bond which adds not only to the pleasure, but to the goodness of life, and to the goodness of work for the common object. The planting of societies in all the principal centres of this country, and the drawing into those societies in the different centres of the best women from all classes and religions and races, and making them acquainted with each other by an acquaintanceship which afterwards cements itself into friendship and intimacy on the line of a common purpose and a common work, cannot but be of the greatest benefit, not only to the individuals, but to the country at large. If nothing other or better than this was accomplished by this National Council of Women, it would certainly be full warrant for its existence, and would entirely justify us, who are not privileged to be its members, in giving it the fullest support and the heartiest sympathy that we possibly can.”

The Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance in the Liberal Government :—

“If the National Council of Women of Canada had done nothing more, it has done a great thing in organization work, something to make the people proud. We had many societies doing some kind of work, but we never knew before the number of these societies, and the enormous extent of their good work ; and so by merely giving statistics and showing the great power for good wielded by women in that way, we are made to feel what women are doing for the development of Canada. Men have the advantage of meeting one another ; if they did not meet together and have personal conference they would be unable to carry on their affairs ; a meeting of Parliament is a great force and power for good ; and so with the representatives of the women of Canada. It is a power for good, though you do not

" see it in statistics. The power of organized womanhood cannot be overestimated. Some of the movements are brought about by individual organization, but when they meet in the National Council of Woman, they bring together all their forces for good. I was much struck by what Sir John Thompson said about having women of different creeds and different nationalities to meet together. There is so much in business and in political and religious life to separate us, that every great organization which brings the minds of women together is a great power for good in Canada."

The Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C.M.G., Minister of Justice in the last Conservative Government :—

" Until a short time ago I knew so little of the real purposes and objects of the Council, that I confess on one or two occasions I expressed grave and serious doubts of its usefulness ; but the man would be dull indeed, and the woman too, if I may say so, who, after hearing the interesting account given us to-night, would not be convinced, not only that the purposes of the Council are good, but that none of the purposes or objects are questionable in the slightest degree. This National Council, I rejoice to know, represents all the Provinces of the Dominion of Canada. Through its influences representatives are brought together in place after place and this cannot fail to result in the welfare and benefit of Canadians as a whole. Every impulse within me beats in unison with your purposes and aspirations as indicated by the various items in your programme. Such addresses as we have heard, breathing of Canadian nationality and Canadian sentiment, appeal to every man in the room to-night, and to the larger majority in Canada to-day. We have to be moved like other people. Once it fell to our lot to be roused together to realize that we were really one people with a common lot, by threatened danger in our own country. I refer to the incipient rebellion in the North-West, which perhaps more than anything else, since 1867, operated to bring the people of Canada together in true sympathy and brotherhood. And again that feeling was played upon. And I say to you, that above and beyond these incidents in this young country's history, there is nothing that can surpass the united efforts of such a body of women as the National Council of Women of Canada, brought together to consult over things for the good of the people at large."

The Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice in the Liberal Government :—

"This is the first Council of Women I have ever had an opportunity of attending, and I regret this exceedingly. The Councils are going about doing good. They are seeking what there is in the condition of man and woman that requires improvement, and that work they are intelligently accomplishing. I am glad, therefore, that what is now undertaken will be more widely expanded, and that many things regarded beyond the reach of reform will be found practically accomplished. I shall give my most earnest attention to certain matters which the Council has brought before me, and I am sure I shall receive the aid and cooperation of the Council before Parliament meets. These things are of value, and I have been induced to research in other quarters as to what is required. I feel sure that this Council of Women will do great and beneficial service to the moral and social well-being of the people of Canada."

The Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior :

"I am here to-night because I esteem the service of your Council. I can say that I know of no more perfect organization than this Council, and I express the strongest hope that the organization may not fall away from its present condition, but may increase in its power for good. I recognise the inestimable value of any social force that is constitutionally and persistently on the right side. Ladies may often meet with a great deal of discouragement in an organization of this kind. Sometimes ladies come to wait upon me and want something done, and when they have gone away, I have often thought that they must be discouraged and think it useless to carry on the work. It would be the greatest mistake to think that it would be no good for you to persevere because you do not get an immediate response. Take my word, every time you come you make an impression, and the time is coming when you will accomplish your object."

The Hon. Sir Louis Davies, K.C.M.G., Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

"I sympathize with your efforts, but some of the subjects before you I have not studied, and I cannot say that I am more than 'friendly' to them ; but I do sympathize with you for one special reason. I remember years ago listening to a speech of a great man, who said : 'I have not always believed in Mr. Gladstone, I have differed from him, but I have always had a warm heart for him, *'because his face was always turned towards the light.'* Now, I do not agree with everything you have down on

“your Agenda, but I sympathize with you because your faces are turned towards the light, and I believe by mutual discussion, year by year, you will make steady advances which will enable you to reach succes.”

The Hon. G. Ross, Premier of Ontario :

“The National Council of Women, as I understand it, is not a distinct organization, but rather a consolidation, or a mobilization of all existing organizations in the country ; it does not demand any domestic or political revolution; it does not propose a reclassification of sexes, or races, or creeds. It is certainly, in my opinion, a noble work, a patriotic work, and a work which will meet with the sympathy of every Canadian who loves his country. About a year ago I read that the Women’s National Council had appointed a Committee to wait on the Government of Ontario to ask them to legislate so that industrial training and domestic economy might be introduced in the schools of Ontario. I learned this afterwards in a more practical manner, for such a Committee waited on me. It will be satisfactory to you to know that what the Committee asked for is now on the statute book of the Province. Another request was made, that a woman be appointed as inspector of Factories and Shops where girls are employed. That also is now the statute law of Ontario. These are indications of the patriotic and sympathetic work and disposition of the Council.”

Hon. George Murray, Premier of Nova Scotia :

“I must make the candid confession that, until lately, I had little idea of the aims and objects which the Council had in view. And I desire to be equally candid when I say, that after a perusal of your Constitution and Report, I have been impressed by the keen and practical discussions which you have held on important measures of reform. I was naturally at first under the impression that the Women’s Council indulged in a great deal of talk and accomplished very little of a practical nature, and, without very much thought on the matter, I somehow had the opinion that the matters of reform which engaged the attention of the Council were of an ideal and impracticable character. But a glance at your Reports dispelled both these delusions—for delusions they certainly were—and I am surprised to find this Society grappling with problems which years ago should have received the deep and earnest attention of our Legislatures. May I be permitted to suggest that a more general distribution of your Reports should be made. It is not enough that the

“friends of the Society should be made aware of the earnest and substantial work which you are accomplishing. I fear there are too many people in Canada who, for lack of knowledge respecting the National Council, are not giving you that support and encouragement which you deserve, and which would gladly be given if they were more familiar with the noble work in which you are engaged. I am pleased to see that your Council has been strengthened by the union of the various organizations which have been formed in various parts in Canada. This union must greatly add to your strength, as it gives you the advantage of the collected wisdom and energy of the brightest women of Canada, who have from years of enthusiastic work obtained a knowledge of how best to direct the centralized operations of this Society in the most effective manner.”

The Bishop of Ottawa :—

“The true test of all good work is that it shall be enduring, that it should continue long after its origin and after its first promoters have been removed. I feel no doubts as to the growth and progress of the National Council of Women of Canada. That growth and progress, we all recognize, is distinctly for the benefit of the country.”

Archbishop O'Brien of Halifax :—

“We have been following your work with sympathy, and I may say that we see much to admire in the work that has been done. I feel sure we all appreciate it and hope still greater good will follow. There is a wide field for your operations—a field so wide that you may work in it for a number of years without encroaching on the ground which the ruder and coarser element of humanity regards as its own. I feel pleasure in asking you to adopt this resolution :

“That this public meeting do record its sense of satisfaction at the success which has attended the patriotic work of the National Council of Women of Canada, and desires to wish it continued and ever-increasing usefulness.”

The Rev. W. T. Herridge, D.D., of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa :

“This gathering is under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Canada, in connection with whose name the word *failure* becomes an utter impossibility. The National Council has been the subject of criticism. Intelligent criticism is neither feared nor resented, and I do not suppose the National Council makes any claim to be infallible. I do not hesitate to say it

"has already done a work which deserves the gratitude and challenges the admiration of every true Canadian."

Rev. John Potts, D.D., of the Methodist Church in Canada :

"I have been profoundly interested in your last year's report—interested in the variety of topics, in the ability of presentation and in the possibilities wrapt up in the National Council of Women of Canada. And yet I feel to-night, with my conservative leanings, that it is a bold thing for me to stand on this platform. One of two things must be happening, either that I am getting reckless in my old age, or that I am learning to reform. We of the male persuasion may as well look on the inevitable. If the ladies by their faith and their perseverance have broken down the walls already, they will take the city."

Rev. Father Ryan, Toronto.

"I appear before you to-night as a very humble representative of His Grace Archbishop Walsh of Toronto. He charged me first to express as strongly as I could his deep appreciation and sympathy with the splendid work done by the National Council of Women of Canada. That work has his cordial approval and blessing. Our Archbishop is a prelate of large views and generous and kindly impulses, and he wishes to emphasize the fact that he is in cordial co-operation with the aims and views and intentions of this National Council. He knows, as a Canadian and a lover of Canada, that in this country of mixed races and diverse religious beliefs there may be here and there little inequalities and asperities that have to be removed, and he sees the great and marked powers of this National Association to equalize and to remove these little social and religious inequalities which interfere with that union of minds and hearts that His Grace wishes in this Canada of ours. He sees as reading the signs of the times, that this work of social union and social unifying is especially the work of the women of Canada. . . . And this we see is the aim and contention of the National Council of Women of Canada—conciliation of all classes and creeds, conciliation without compromise, and conciliation that will lead to a union of minds and hearts."

It will be noted in the extracts I have given that the power possessed by the Council for promoting *unity* has been specially emphasized and to much emphasis cannot be laid upon it from the point of view of the leaders in the Council movement. It is, indeed its very essence.

Mrs. Drummond, who has acted as convener of the Committee responsible for the compilation of this handbook, once put this

great ideal before us in words so eloquent, that I cannot refrain from repeating them as the best possible summing up of the whole matter :

"And touching upon this word, 'Unity,' we do indeed strike " the key-note of our Council :—that unity, which is the pre-sup-
" position and the goal of science, of philosophy, of theology, is
" also the ruling idea of our Council, and the mark towards which
" it strives.

" Unity of aim, transcending all difference of thought and of
" opinion. Unity of standard, replacing forever that divided ideal
" which, proclaiming purity to the woman, but to the man, truth
" and honor and strength, does in effect make the man less manly,
" and the woman less womanly, and proves its fallacy by causing
" half the sins and miseries of life. Unity of life, whereby it shall
" no longer be falsely divided into secular and religious,
" sacred and profane, but shall in all its parts be inspired by the
" consciousness of a Divine purpose which, realizing itself under
" the myriad aspects of nature, and in all the life of man, inform-
" ing all things, transforming all things, shall in the end subdue
" all things unto itself. A unity transcending all difference, com-
" prehending all peoples, and nations, and tongues, in whose
" infinite embrace all shall at last be harmonized and reconciled.
" This is the Council idea ; this the principle that inspires it, and
" the end towards which it strives."

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Canadian Women's Council has had the great advantage of working from the outset with the sympathy of many of the men of most weight in the country, who have treated the representations made to them by the Council with that consideration which has given an added sense of responsibility to our members. When people feel they possess a real influence in affairs, they have little temptation to be aggressive, and the policy and fixed principle of our Council have been to trust the men, and to endeavor ever to work in co-operation with them towards the aims we have in view ; we have found this policy to be the truest, and we have found our confidence rewarded.

ISHBEL ABERDEEN.

Haddo House, Scotland, February, 1900.

